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**BORREGO WATER COALITION RECOMMENDS POLICIES
FOR THE BORREGO VALLEY'S GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

BORREGO SPRINGS, CA (NOVEMBER 6, 2014): A significant milestone was reached this afternoon when the Borrego Water Coalition (“the Coalition”), after many months of extensive negotiations and collaborative work, issued a set of policy recommendations to the Borrego Water District’s Board of Directors for potential inclusion in the Borrego Valley’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The ongoing work of the Coalition became even more important to the valley when on September 16th of this year Governor Brown signed sweeping legislation, “The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” (“the Act”), to manage groundwater in the state. The legislation establishes that it is the policy of the State of California that groundwater resources in the state be managed sustainably for long-term water reliability and multiple economic, social, or environmental benefits. The Act requires groundwater basins in critical overdraft, such as the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin, to have a GSP completed no later than January, 31, 2020.

The goal of the Coalition mirrors the purpose of the Act, which is to arrive at a balanced basin where withdrawals do not exceed the sustainable yield (average annual net recharge to the basin). The legislation mandates that designated agencies develop and implement a plan that is approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The plan must seek to achieve sustainable yield in no more than 20-years from the date the plan is approved.

The policies recommended by the Coalition today are in full compliance with the Act and are designed to stimulate discussion on the part of Borrego Valley property owners in order to develop a broad consensus and support for the objectives of the GSP.

The Coalition represents all sectors of the Borrego community: agriculture, recreation, commercial, public agency (e.g. the State Park), and municipal users of water in the Valley. For almost two years we have met every month as a group. The policies presented today are one result of the ongoing work of the Coalition.

The Coalition’s website is at: <http://www.borregospringschamber.com/bwc/>.